AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Whole No. 2118 | Tuesday, November 13, 1951 | Vol. 41, No. 46

Consumer Pays $10 Billion More

Excise Tax Jump Voted by 'Soak-the-Poor' 82d Congress Hits Hardest on Cost of Living Items

By ARTHUR A. ELDER

(Consultant to AFL Committee on Taxation, AFL Vice-President Matthew Woll, chairman. One in a series of articles on how Congress put most of the tax burden on low-income wage earners.)

"APPLIANCES TO COST MORE"
"DEALERS WILL PASS ON TAX"
"SOME MARK UPS ON TAX ALLOWED BY OPS"

Members of Congress had barely returned to their homes after approving the $5.691 billion tax boost when the above headlines appeared in local papers throughout the land.

Mr. and Mrs. John Citizen must have been particularly impressed by those headlines which told them that the $1,200,000,000 increase in excise tax revenue would be reflected in another bulge in their cost of living beginning Nov. 1.

And now it is with us, a 16 2/3 percent increase in the tax on distilled spirits, a 12½ percent boost in the tax on beer, a 12½ percent increase in the tax on wine and a 1c per package rise in the tax on cigarettes, a half-cent per gallon increase in the gasoline tax.

In addition a variety of new taxes on electric, gas and oil appliances, fountain pens, photographic apparatus and film and mechanical lighters were enacted.

All told, these new and additional taxes on consumers will boost the federal excise tax burden to approximately $10 billion yearly.

The American Federation of Labor protested the adoption of these additional taxes on consumers.

In statements presented to Congress such taxes were called inflationary because when included in the cost of living they would increase the pressure for wage increases. AFL protests were made at public hearings before Congress, and in statements to the press.

But Congress disregarded history, warning and economic facts.

More excise taxes are piled on top of existing abnormally high taxes on consumers. So the headlines and daily press tell how merchants plan to pass the tax on to their customers.

In many cases mark-ups are added to the tax.

A 1c or 2c tax is often used as excuse for a 5c increase in price.

These facts fear out the correctness of the AFL prediction. Action by the 82d Congress on excise taxes might be aptly styled **Promotion of Inflation.**

STEAK PRICE INCLUDED COST OF PAPER WRAP

St. Paul, Minn.—The Cudahy Packing Co. of Newport, Minn., was permanently restrained by the United States District Court from violating the Office of Price Stabilization Ceiling Price Regulation 24 by including the weight of the wrapping paper used on portions of beef carcasses as part of the weight of the meat.

OPS regulations do not permit inclusion of weight of wrapping as part of weight of beef in the ceiling price.

The regulations do permit, however, the processor or packer to charge up to 35 cents per hundred pounds for wrapping and 40 cents per hundred pounds for delivery within a 35-mile radius of the distribution point.

24 AFFILIATE

Lansing, Mich.—The Michigan State Federation of Labor reports 24 new affiliations by local and federal labor union in 3 months following the 1951 state convention.

The new local union affiliates belong to these AFL internationals: Auto Workers, State, County and Municipal Workers, Postoffice Clerks, Bricklayers, Teamsters, Variety Artists, Painters, Hotel and Restaurant Employes, Iron Workers, Lathers, Molders, Electrical Workers and Barbers.

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND STOP BELLY-ACHING.—Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.—The 10th anniversary of Pearl Harbor falls Dec. 7, 1951. Here on the USS Arizona, sunk in the sneak attack by Japan, AFL Vice President James C. Petrillo (third from left), president American Federation of Musicians, visits the bronze tablet marking the last resting place of 1,052 members of the crew still in the battered hulk. "I am sure those visiting the Arizona would immediately quit belly-aching about the high cost of defense," Mr. Petrillo remarked to those with him (l. to r.), Richard S. Mirikitani, attorney Honolulu Musicians Local 677; I. B. Peterson, president Local 677; A. S. Reile, secretary-treasurer, and John E. K. Akaka, business agent of Local 677.

"UNION MAID"

"Oh that's called meat, dear—We used to have it for dinner."

Washington.—One of the new series of Union Maid cartoons distributed to AFL newspapers by AFL Weekly News Service.

Poor Defense Policies Cost Jobs In Textiles, Building, Small Plants

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

Washington.—The serious lack of coordination in the defense mobilization program is throwing thousands of workers out of jobs in textiles, building trades and hundreds of small plants.

Unemployment in the New York building trades exceeds 25,000 and the number idle in the building industry in many other centers is rising as the government's cutback in the use of materials begins to bite deeply.

In the textile industry, even though thousands are idle in the New England area alone, the U. S. Quartermaster awarded a $12 million contract for wool blankets to the Terre Haute, Ind., Federal Penitentiary.

All of the promises of Defense Mobilization Administrator Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin and other government officials to channel government contracts into areas with pools of unemployed workers have so far failed to materialize.

Neither has Mr. Wilson timed cutbacks in civilian goods with the awarding of contracts for war work to prevent unemployment.

Present trends continuing, a winter of serious dislocations with needless suffering is in prospect.

GUIDANCE FOR NEGROES

New York.—"Ever Widening Horizons," the story of the vocational opportunity campaigns of the National Urban League's Program has just been published, 32 pages, 25 cents.

It is an account of the origin and development of the League's vocational guidance program begun in 1920 to "find a whole new approach to the problem of Negro unemployment."

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Washington.—Employment in October 1951 of 61,836,000 persons was the highest on record for the month, 1,000,000 above a year ago.

New York.—Aroused at the peril confronting their job security and wage structure, the AFL Building Trades Unions here convened in extraordinary session to "discuss ways and means of protecting our members from the vagaries of the present production and planning program," and to prevent New York City from becoming a "ghost-town."

Confronted already by growing unemployment among the city's skilled construction workers which is expected to reach about 75,000 out of 250,000 members, the AFL Building and Construction Trades Council warned that "a major crisis" portended.

"We believe there is still time to convince the authorities in Washington that genuine consideration and basic understanding of the problems confronting our city must be forthcoming," said a letter to AFL building unions from Council President Howard McSpedon. "If we fail in this regard, New York City is on the way to becoming a ghost-town."

Anticipating criticism from anti-labor interests, Mr. McSpedon declared:

"We know you will agree with your officers that our labor movement here is prepared to make any sacrifices in the defense against the spread of totalitarianism.

"We know you will agree that there is nothing our construction workers will do in any way to hinder our defense effort in the fight for freedom. We showed our patriotism and self-sacrifice in World War II and we are ready now to stand together with our government in the preparations for resistance to communism.

"But having said that, we must also add that we cannot sit idly by without determined protest and watch our strong building trades unions, our job security, our wage structure, our pension systems demolished.

"This may happen unless the National Production Administration and subsidiary agencies are made cognizant of the economic crisis in which our workers find themselves, a crisis which will be more deeply intensified in the coming months."

Truman Works On '52 Issues

Key West, Fla.—President Truman began a vacation during which he worked on messages to the 2d session of the 82d Congress due to open Jan. 8.

With his Fair Deal program drawing a blank in the 1951 session, dominated by Dixiecrats and reactionary Republicans, Mr. Truman is expected to renew his demands for a long list of major legislation to curb inflation at home, extend benefits of federal social and health services, and safeguard individual civil liberties.

Presidential Secretary Joseph Short said that the President wants to spend much of his time here working on the budget, economic and State of the Union messages.

The first of these will be delivered within less than 60 days.

Mr. Truman's proposals and what the Congress does with them will provide the framework for next year's national elections. The 82d Congress made such a poor showing on legislation for the mass of the people that, unless its record improves substantially, there will be a big turnover in its membership next November.

Gompers Saw Unions Needed In Politics

By FLORENCE C. THORNE

(Part One of Appraisal of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president American Federation of Labor, by the AFL director of research and a Gompers associate for many years.)

From the Washington, D. C., Trades Unionist

Because he chose to be an American, though born here, Samuel Gompers was more firmly committed to America than many whose ancestors had been in this country for generations.

Born in East Side London in January 1850, his parents brought him to East Side New York in 1860. The meagerness of the London one-room home is revealed in the fact that the boy left school to earn a few pennies, first making shoes and then cigars, to help eke out the family income.

He learned his early life's lessons playing on the sidewalks of London and then New York. Early, he learned that want, suffering, and losses are a part of life.

His formal education in England was extremely limited, but his education was continued in New York in the Cooper Union, debating clubs, lodge activities and in cigar-making shops where hand-work permitted the men to join together to pay a worker to read aloud to them, from articles, books and papers of their choosing. Reading resulted in lively debates.

In the cigar shops, he met cigarmakers from European countries who had been union members in their home countries and others who were refugees because of revolutionary actions. He must have developed early some of the qualities that characterized his leadership—his insatiable interest in living and learning something new, his love of people, and desire for constant human companionship, whether that of a ditch digger or an opera singer, like Caruso, who happened his way.

Outstanding persons in his shop and union took the trouble to explain to the benefit of their experience and explain the principles and methods of trade unionism.

They convinced him that the union, simple as it is, is the agency which can best promote the interests and welfare of wage earners, and that it could be adjusted to meet their needs in the political field and in the community equally well as in the economic problems of work, including wages, hours, and conditions of labor.

By centering these activities in one agency, the loyalties of workers were also centered, and efforts for betterment planned where relief was most needed. The union became the great fact in his life, and he gave his life to developing the services of the union.

With other fellow workers, Gompers first tried to develop the union as a permanent organization. Many early unions were formed to get some immediate gain and then died out. Many were formed but few lived. These cigar makers began to pioneer in the work of developing services to induce workers to maintain union membership permanently. They tried union benefits for sickness and death, employment information for members seeking work, efforts to establish collective bargaining, etc.

It was hard work. The cigarmaking industry was not wealthy. There was a constant influx of new immigrant cigar makers in urgent need of jobs for income. Yet they built up an efficient union of which they were proud. There were struggles and there was hunger. Mr. Gompers was blacklisted and had to seek work out of New York.

The members elected a president of the national organization and began to spread their ideas of permanent unionism throughout all shops. They were equally aware of their need of support from other national unions and federations. Previous efforts to organize a national federation had failed because they were more concerned with political objectives.

The cigar maker's officials found many national trade unions interested in organizing a national federation after the pattern of the British Trade Union Congress. Samuel Gompers was a delegate to the convention meeting in Pittsburgh in 1881, which organized the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada. This organization had no full-time paid officers and no headquarters, but its affairs, between conventions, were conducted by an executive committee. Mr. Gompers was chairman for 3 out of its 6 years of life.

When the Knights of Labor began taking over union functions and intervening in trade union affairs, the officials of national unions determined to fight them. A conference was called for the same time and place as that for the existing federation, and a new federation, called the American Federation of Labor, was formed to promote a safeguard for trade unions. A constitution was adopted providing for a full-time president. The two federations were then merged. Samuel Gompers was elected its first president and was reelected each succeeding year, except one, until his death on Dec. 13, 1924.

Responsible for a new organization, with no funds for either expenses or salary, Samuel Gompers, with a dream in his mind and vigor in his step, begged an office for his cigarmaker pioneers, and with the cooperation of family and friends made office furniture, and then began to develop the machinery and relationships to enable the group of independent national trade unions to cooperate for mutual benefit and progress.

Charters of affiliation, relationships between the Federation and local unions, amalgamated bodies and single trade unions had to be determined and systematized; organizers selected and made responsible to the central authority; projects planned and executed with the help of others; the new Federation had to find and develop its functions and services in relation to national organizations already established and in operation.

Because of the personal magnetism that drew men to him and his earnestness that made them believe in his cause, his compelling eyes and powerful, perfectly controlled voice, Samuel Gompers gained converts and fellow workers. It was up-hill work for workers in those days.

They made their gains solely by organizing their economic power and through their courage in taking a chance on an immediate demand. New national unions were formed. Some old ones moved forward while others were stalled by growing large scale business units. The Federation inched its way up to half a million members by 1900—slow progress but sure.

It was a federation of disciplined trade unionists who believed in trade unionism as a way of life. "Pure, simple trade unionism," thundered Samuel Gompers against the Socialists, the early disciples of Karl Marx who urged political action for the workers to control government and take over industries. He defeated their effort to control unions and to set up dual unions.

Years later he was equally to denounce communist seizure of the Russian government, in the revolution against absolutism. He opposed legislation which would open unions to governmental regimentation, even under guise of security and welfare. He urged the trade union and the union contract as the safe way to the same ends, which would not restrict the freedom of workers and reduce the effectiveness of unions. He consistently refused to state the philosophy or the goals of trade unionism except in terms of human freedom which would bring ever widening opportunities and responsibilities for trade unions.

THEY KNEW GOMPERS.—Washington.—Miss Florence C. Thorne (left), AFL director of research who was appointed to her position by Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL; Mrs. Florence Gompers MacKay, Washington, granddaughter of Mr. Gompers, and Mrs. J. Calvin MacKay, wife of Mr. Gompers' great-grandson, listen to speakers at ceremonies dedicating Gompers Square.

GERALDINE FIALA

Chicago.—The 21-year-old daughter of Emil J. Fiala, member of Bakery Drivers Local 734, smiles happily upon receiving $50 scholarship for study at DePaul University, offered for the first time by the local union. Winner was selected by university in competitive examination among children of union members.

Organized Use of Labor Vote Gompers' Theory

By FLORENCE C. THORNE

(Part Two of Appraisal of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president American Federation of Labor, by the AFL director of research and a Gompers associate for many years.)

From the Washington, D. C., Trades Unionist

When employers organized with associates to use the injunction to prevent unions from functioning and to use the antitrust law to dissolve unions, Samuel Gompers mobilized his unions to fight them in the political field.

Organized use of the labor vote was the only practical way. An organized minority can serve as the determining balance.

With leading Federation spokesmen, Gompers presented a bill of grievances to party leaders controlling the administration. Getting no comfort, he entered the Maine election and gave the wage earners a record on how their representatives had voted on labor legislation. "Reward your friends and defeat your enemies," the Federation advised, as it gave out records on key labor proposals.

True to his principle of voluntarism, Gompers relied upon workers' intelligent reaction to facts concerning their interests. The Maine representative most active in blocking proposals beneficial to labor had his majority reduced from 5,000 to 1,000.

Aid from Congress after his next term expired.

In this struggle to use the institutions of government to deny wage earners equal opportunities with other citizens and rights guaranteed all citizens by the U. S. Constitution, offenders led by Samuel Gompers defied injunctions in order to get a test case to be carried to the Supreme Court in order to get clear definitions of rights and situations. These officials were tried by a federal judge and given jail sentences. These facts heightened the political efforts and interests of the federation.

As the Federation gained experience and prestige by these methods, in 1914 came the first serious effort to meet constructively labor's charges of abuse and misuse of the injunction by judges, as well as the Federation's claim that organizations of free men to promote economic power were essentially different from combinations to control commodities—that is, industrial trusts. But this effort at remedial legislation were not successful. The law which was to deal more effectively with injunctions in labor disputes came 8 years after Mr. Gompers died—the Norris LaGuardia Act.

Other victories came in the interim: the establishment of the Labor Department of Labor, the Seamen's Act, and the Vocational Education program, to mention a few. Meanwhile as World War I involved this country in that struggle, Mr. Gompers was appointed by the President to the nation's council planning mobilization. He mobilized American labor in support of the government as war was declared and arranged for union cooperation in national defense on a contractual basis.

By signing a contract with Newton D. Baker (the Secretary of War) for cooperation in cantonment construction, he carried the union agreement into government relationships to control terms and conditions of work. He helped mobilize support for the war against aggression both in this country and in Europe.

He contributed to world peace thereafter by serving as chairman of the commission which drafted the charter of the International Labor Organization. He never participated in it because our Congress failed to ratify the Versailles Treaty.

In the meanwhile, President Gompers true to policies of the inter-relationship of labor movements in countries of the globe, had supported the release of the workers of Mexico from the bonds of political tyranny, to establish a free trade union organization.

These two American movements united with the workers of Latin America in a Pan-American Federation of Labor. To a convention of this Western Hemisphere organization, Mr. Gompers journeyed on his last official trip and observed with satisfaction the inaugural of a new president of Mexico and convening of representatives of the labor movements of the continent.

On his death, across the border from the land of his choice, this immigrant cigarmaker was given honors by farms of the Southwest.

His funeral train was marked by delegates at stops and chance groups along the tracks as it crossed the states to Washington and then to New York, his home city.

He was a great American who urged his fellow men to keep the faith and make American institutions better day by day, year by year. The Federation he helped to found and develop has continued to grow and has become the greatest free trade union movement in the world—a force for freedom throughout the world. Its leaders have kept the faith as must other generations.

INTEREST GROWS IN GOMPERS

Washington.—The great revival of interest in Samuel Gompers and the American Federation of Labor—stimulated by the AFL observance of the centennial of his birth in 1950—continues to grow.

Mr. Gompers was born in London, Jan. 27, 1850.

He died in El Paso, Tex., Dec. 13, 1924.

Many unions will observe the anniversaries.

BACK MERGER

Harrisburg, The Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor and the Philadelphia Central Labor Union urged that voters throughout the state and city support the state constitutional amendment authorizing the merger of Philadelphia city and county in the interests of economical and more efficient government.

REPRESENTED AFL AT AUSTRIAN LABOR CONGRESS.—Vienna, Austria.—Henry Rutz (center), AFL representative in Germany, chats with U. S. High Commissioner for Austria Walter J. Donnelly (right), and Herman B. Brotman (left), labor attache to Mr. Donnelly, at the 2d post war congress of the anti-communist Austrian Federation of Trade Unions.

'Times' Calls For Penalty In Wetback Law

New York.—The New York Times called editorially on Congress for enactment early in the new session of legislation to penalize employers who hire Mexican farm workers illegally in this country.

The failure of Congress and the Administration to deal with the problem of wetbacks—Mexicans who swim or wade the Rio Grande river to enter the country illegally—has created a situation which will be met forthrightly only if the entire nation raises its voice to demand remedial action. The Times said:

Immediately after approving a bill last summer to regulate the importation of Mexican farm labor, President Truman urged further legislation to cope with the "wetback" problem. As he said at the time, the act he then signed was merely a first step. It was designed to bring some order, under government supervision, into what had been the chaotic recruitment and irresponsible employment of thousands of temporary workers annually brought across the border from Mexico for harvesting cotton, sugar beets, fruit and vegetables on the great farms of the Southwest.

This law was all very well and at least regularized the situation to some extent for the present year; but, to quote the President, "the really crucial point, which this act scarcely faces, is the steady stream of illegal immigrants from Mexico"—the "wetbacks" who by the hundreds of thousands cross the Rio Grande without permits in search of employment in the United States. Recommendation No. 1 which the President made last July was that penalties be provided for anyone harboring or concealing "wetbacks." And Recommendation No. 2 was that immigration officers be permitted to inspect without a warrant places of employment (not private homes) where they think illegal immigrants may be working or quartered.

The President pointed out that "the inspections would involve no more, and probably a good deal less, than inspections of mines or factories by public authorities to assure compliance with accident prevention laws."

Bills covering these two proposals were introduced in Congress. A House subcommittee has now prepared a report on the problem in effect endorsing the President's recommendations. But the report has been held up because of strenuous protests from some Texas Representatives, who object particularly to the search feature of the proposed bill.

The simple fact is that the "wetback" problem will never be solved unless there are penalties for hiding illegal immigrants and also unless the means are provided for enforcement officers to uncover infractions of the statute. Strong legislation to protect migratory labor from the exploitation which inevitably drags down domestic labor standards should be passed early in the new session.

GREET FRENCH TEAM

New York.—Representatives of the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen greeted a team of French employers and workers in the meat packing industry. They showed the Meat Cutters film, "Pursuit of Happiness."

Capehart Amendment Forces OPS Price Hike Foods to Auto Parts

Washington.— The Administration revised its two major manufacturers' price regulations and said generally higher price ceilings expected for many consumer goods could be blamed on Congress.

The revisions provide for adjustments to comply with changes made by Congress in the controls law, particularly the Capehart amendment which President Truman once termed "an economic booby-trap."

Price Director Michael V. DiSalle said the revisions implementing the Capehart amendment "undoubtedly will result in some increases in manufacturers' ceilings and permit a generally higher level of prices. We have no choice under the amended Defense Production Act but to allow manufacturers, if they wish to adjust their ceilings."

At the same time, DiSalle told a news conference there may be some roll-backs for general manufacturers and machinery-makers who raised prices faster than costs after the Korean outbreak. There also may be roll-backs in fields where materials costs possibly may have declined since the general price freeze last Jan. 26.

An estimated 100,000 manufacturers are affected by the two big price orders. They produce such things as processed foods, furniture, household appliances, farm machinery, chemicals, hardware and hand tools, machine tools and rubber goods.

The controversial Capehart amendment allows manufacturers to take their pre-Korean prices and add all cost increases up to last July 26. These include direct costs, such as raw material and labor, and indirect costs, such as administrative, clerical, advertising and selling expense.

The original manufacturers and machinery orders allowed only for addition of direct cost increases after the Korean outbreak. They also provided earlier cutoff dates—up to last March 15 for labor increases and Dec. 31 and March 15 for certain materials.

"UNION MAID"

"Senator Fuddle ought to look worried—
He's up for re-election next November!"

Washington.—One of the new series of Union Maid cartoons distributed to AFL newspapers by AFL Weekly News Service.

Labor Decides Many Local Elections

Washington.—The political efforts of AFL unions helped to decide many local elections in favor of liberal and progressive candidates in the nation-wide balloting on Nov. 6.

The results generally gave local unions a test run of their registration and getting-out-the-vote-operations in preparation for the national elections in 1952. The AFL emphasizes that election of a good Congress is essentially a local union job.

Where a registration and educational job was accomplished, the majority of voters in cities, counties and states this year put in office candidates favorable to organized labor and liberal groups.

Victories spanned the country from New York to San Francisco.

With support of AFL unions and endorsement of 132 labor leaders, Rudolph Halley, former counsel for the Kefauver Crime Committee, was elected president of the New York City Council. He ran on a Liberal-Independent-Fusion party ticket—neither Democrat or Republican.

In San Francisco, AFL labor supported Mayor Elmer E. Robinson, Republican, who won re-election by a narrow margin.

In Philadelphia, the bulk of AFL labor backed the victorious Democrat, Joseph S. Clark, Jr.

These victories demonstrated anew that AFL unions look at the record and not at party label in supporting candidates for public office. No party can take American Federation of Labor support for granted.

The Kentucky State Federation of Labor backed Democratic Gov. Lawrence Wetherby, who won re-election in one of the two gubernatorial elections held. Hugh White was elected governor in Mississippi.

Michael J. Towey of the AFL Plumbers was elected a member of Philadelphia's city council.

In Hartford, Conn., Joseph V. Cronin, business representative of the AFL International Association of Machinists District 26 was elected mayor.

ISSUE RECORD

Washington.—The AFL International Association of Machinists issued "The Sad Story of the 82d Congress" containing the voting records of all members of Congress on a dozen key issues. The Machinist said:

"On national defense and foreign policy, the record of the 82d Congress is windy but sound. On domestic policy, the record is one of inaction and oratory."

ARMISTICE DAY REMINDER.—Arlington National Cemetery, Va.—Princess Elizabeth of Britain and her husband, Philip, place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during her visit to Washington a few days before Armistice Day, Nov. 11, which commemorates the end of World War I in which the soldier died.

Peace Must Merit Support of Workers, Says Leon Jouhaux

LEON JOUHAUX

Paris, France.—Head of the Force Ouvrier, anti-Communist French workers' force which the AFL helped to organize in postwar France, was awarded the 1951 Nobel Prize for Peace by the Nobel Prize Committee in Oslo, Norway.

Paris, France.—A peace that did not have the support of the working class would not be a true one no more than a peace that was not based on social justice.

That conviction was expressed by Leon Jouhaux, president of the French Workers force and long-time friend of the AFL, in his first interview after winning the Nobel Peace Prize for 1951.

Mr. Jouhaux, first labor leader and 50th person to win the award, said that his election was "confirmation of the value accorded to the action of the working class in favor of the organization of peace."

He will go to Oslo, Norway, to receive the prize and $32,432 on Dec. 10 —55th anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite who established the award for the person "who has worked most or best for promoting brotherhood among the peoples of the world and for abolition or reduction of standing armies, and for the establishment and spread of peace congresses."

Among the 28 individuals and 7 institutions nominated for the 1951 award were United Nations Secretary-General Trygve Lie and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Mr. Jouhaux, born in Paris July 1, 1879, left school at 12 to work in a soap factory and as a locksmith's helper and wall paperer. He has been active in French labor for more than 50 years and helped Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor, to write the charter of the International Labor Organization at Versailles in 1919.

He was elected by the match workers union as representative to the General Confederation of Labor in 1906. He became secretary-general of the confederation in 1909 and held the post until December 1947.

Then, fed up with Communist manipulation of the French unions, he led a split in the powerful Force Ouvrier with the financial assistance and help of the AFL. This move is credited with having saved the French labor movement from the Communists.

Mr. Jouhaux is a member of the executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and president of the Economic Council of France. He favors a United States of Europe.

ICFTU Publishes New Booklet On 'Stalin's Slave Camps'

New York.—A new booklet, "Stalin's Slave Labor Camps," published by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, is now available for 75 cents per single copy, one-third less for wholesale orders.

Orders and inquiries may be sent to Arnold Beichman, ICFTU public relations representative, 20 W. 40th St., New York 18, N. Y., telephone Pennsylvania 6-0693-4.

The cover of the book in 3 colors reproduces the AFL map of the slave camps in the Soviet Union. The book makes the point that in Stalin's Russia "no worker, in fact no citizen, is free under the regime; they are all slaves of a sort."

The contents include sections titled "Inside the Slave Camps," "Slave Life in Eastern Europe," "Books by E...aped Slaves," "Slave Labor in Soviet Law," and "The Struggle Against Modern Slavery."

GOVERNOR HELPS LAY CORNERSTONE.—Detroit.—Michigan's Gov. G. Mennen Williams applies a trowel-full of mortar to the cornerstone of the new $600,000 home of the AFL Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes under the watchful eye of Union President T. C. Carroll. A few minutes later the cornerstone covered the sealed copper box in the center containing many items and documents valued by the brotherhood.

Charges National Plot To Wreck Farm Workers

Washington. — President H. L. Mitchell of the AFL National Farm Labor Union charged that a national plot exists to wreck the labor and living standards of millions of American family-size farm families and farm workers.

He said the plot is revealed by uniform statements by the Dallas, Tex., Morning News, South Texas Association and Associated Farmers of California. The Dallas News sent copies of its stories supporting employment of illegal aliens to every member of Congress.

Mr. Mitchell raised the question whether Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin and Director Robert Goodwin of the U. S. Employment Service have not been duped by the anti-labor farm interests. The U. S. officials conferred recently with farm interests but have not consulted labor, civic or religious leaders deeply concerned with the estimated one million "wetbacks" now illegally in this country.

All of the plotters, Mr. Mitchell said, hit the same theme advocating the flouting of U. S. immigration laws.

He said the South Texas Association was recently formed by large farmers to raise a $50,000 fund to prevent enforcement of U. S. immigration laws and is currently under investigation by the Department of Justice.

He charged that the same theme was followed by Hank Strobel, secretary of the notorious Associated Farmers, Inc., of California, in an address before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, on Oct. 24.

HOROWITZ APPOINTED

New York.—Israel Horowitz, assistant general manager of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department of the AFL International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was appointed general manager with more than 38,000 garment workers in Connecticut, Long Island, up-state New York and New Jersey, in his jurisdiction.

POLISH LEADER MEETS AFL OFFICIALS.—Washington.—Gen. Tadeusz Komorowski (General Bor), leader of the Polish resistance to Hitler and Stalin and member of the Polish Free Government in Exile in London, told AFL officials on a visit to AFL headquarters of the need of the Polish people for American labor help and support to win their freedom from Stalin's slave-masters. With Gen. Bor are Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip Kaiser (left) and AFL International Representative George P. Delaney (right).

Bissell Asks Broad Meaning For 'Security' In New MSA

By RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Mutual Security Administrator

(Excerpts of remarks to labor editors on transfer of Economic Cooperation Administration to Mutual Security Administration under W. Averell Harriman.)

Washington.—This is what is likely to become of the whole program that the Economic Corporation Administration has been carrying on in Europe for the last 31 years.

The successor will be called the Mutual Security Agency, with the Director for Mutual Security in the White House.

The change in name is a recognition of the fact that the Marshall Plan has been, in many respects at least, a major success and most of the economic problems that were identified by the Committee on European Economic Cooperation (a committee of Europeans that met in the summer of 1947) have been pretty effectively solved in the last 3 years. . . .

The greatest failure of the Marshall Plan is probably one that may strike home particularly forcefully—with all the economic recovery that has been accomplished, the position of important groups in certain important European countries remains unsatisfactory.

Greatest failure of accomplishment to date is measured by the position of industrial, labor, and white-collar workers, and small receivers of relatively fixed incomes—especially in France and Italy, to some extent in Germany as well.

Many of the political weaknesses that are still apparent on the Continent are related to the fact that we have never really been able to overcome the damaging effect on the position of labor and the position of the smaller and lower-income white-collar groups of the postwar inflation. . . .

What has been symbolized in the Congress as the objective which has to be regarded as having the highest priority and the greatest importance in the years immediately ahead is the building of the military security of the West—hence the Mutual Security Administration, hence the fact that from here on economic aid in Europe at least, and in parts of Asia, will be very closely tied to the building of military strength.

Our efforts must now become part of the task of building the security of the U. S., but it is my personal view that we must exercise great care in this country not to define the term and the concept of "security" to narrowly.

One of the real dangers to our whole foreign policy and our position in the world is the conviction that I believe is held by vast numbers of people outside the U. S.—that we as a nation and as a government have lost our interest in everything affirmative and constructive and creative in the long run, and that our sole interest is building in the short run purely physical military strength, whatever the consequences of what we do in the process of building that strength.

This is a dangerous state of mind in the world and can rob us of our allies and/or render their efforts ineffective.

Strength will be ineffective if the mass of people in those countries will not have their hearts in what they are doing and feel that their countries and societies are worth fighting for.

I hope that ECA (in the remaining 60 days) and MSA will guard against that danger. The most effective way is never to lose sight of the fact that military strength is nothing but a means to an end and that by itself it cannot achieve the end in view—the immediate end of security for the U. S. . . .

Our new name is symbolic—signifying not only our change in purpose but the change in the state of affairs in Europe. We are trying to prevent the next war. That symbolism and that change I welcome, because it marks a largely successful accomplishment of one task and the begining of another.

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN
Washington.—The first European ambassador for the Marshall Plan takes oath as the new director of the Mutual Security Administration which replaces ECA to administer foreign military and economic aid.

I think it is vitally important that we give the term "security" a sophisticated, broad, statesmanlike definition when we bandy it about in the next 2 or 3 years. It must mean we are trying to build not only a military shield but a western world of mind that shield which will remain strong enough to hold it. The key to building that kind of a world and to building our military defenses is to expand the total production of the European economy and to accomplish that by an increase in productivity. . . .

If we are placing more emphasis today on expanding productivity than we have at any point in the last 3 years, it is because that has become in a real sense the core of the activities of the MSA. . . .

Finally, we must always realize that productivity and total output must expand together if we are to accomplish our purposes in Europe. And if they do, if the fruits of increased productivity are fairly and decently shared—each earner and each consumer getting appropriate shares of the benefits—I am convinced Europe can grow in strength rapidly enough and greatly enough so that we will indeed deter aggression.

Today the standard of living for most of the people in Western Europe is just about back to pre-war—which makes you realize that the masses of the people have very real reason to question whether the West holds out the hope of better things—whether there is something to live for.

Unless visibly in the next 3 years these people can see that they are moving toward something better than an absolutely convinced that the whole enterprise will fail, even in its narrowest sense of building an army with which Eisenhower can deter aggression. Therefore the key to military strength, the key to the future, is expanding production in Europe.

The increase must come about through an increase in productivity. Unemployment is a serious problem in Italy and Germany—occasionally a problem in Belgium.

Unemployment in the old sense of the 30s has not been a problem at all. Even considering Italy and Germany, today production is running close to the peak that is permitted by today's labor force, today's plant and equipment and today's techniques of production, management and organization.

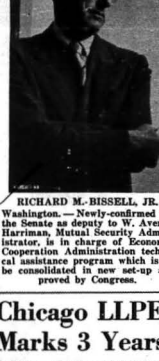
If there is to be the 3, 4 or 5 percent increase in production—the minimums necessary for social health in Europe and strength and defense of the West—there must be expanding productivity.

Total production is the right way to look at the problem. I think it is a grave and dangerous error for us ever to let the concept of total production become detached from the concept of greater production per man hour. It is apparent that if production per man hour goes up and total production does not, the result is probably going to be some more leisure but probably will mean quite a lot of unemployment and other undesirable consequences.

Purpose of the productivity drive in Europe has to be not merely to use labor and machinery and raw materials more efficiently but to use them so that there will be more end product to go into higher standards of living, capital formation to expand the European economy and to go into the defense effort.

We view increase in productivity as nothing but a means to an end—the end is larger total production. If productivity is striving for productivity to achieve higher total output, one doesn't work simply on techniques of productivity but on the whole set of circumstances in any country at any time that may prevent the full utilization of its resources.

If restrictionism continues to prevail, coupled with rising productivity, we may find the productivity will be viewed by at least a minority of the people as a curse and not a blessing.



RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Washington. — Newly-confirmed by the Senate as deputy to W. Averell Harriman, Mutual Security Administrator, is in charge of Economic Cooperation Administration technical assistance program which is to be consolidated in new set-up approved by Congress.

GROUCHO MARX'S GUESTS COULDN'T IDENTIFY ECA

Washington.—Two guests, neither of them members of organized labor, were unable to tell Groucho Marx on his quiz program the other night that ECA stood for Economic Cooperation Administration.

By the end of 1951, ECA will be replaced by MSA—Mutual Security Administration.

Richard M. Bissell, Jr., acting ECA director and new deputy MSA director, took labor editors recently that ECA's greatest failure was its inability to raise the living standards of Europe's workers—exactly the criticism leveled at the AFL 70th convention by AFL Vice President Charles J. MacGowan and by the convention itself.

Mr. Bissell said that the new drive for increased productivity in Europe—with U. S. financial assistance—must mean higher total production to be distributed in the form of higher living standards for all the people.

The accompanying piece by him—heretofore unpublished—ought to be read carefully by every AFL member so that he can more clearly understand his individual stake in this great new agency Mutual Security Administration—MSA.

Chicago LLPE Marks 3 Years

Chicago.—Speakers of both major political parties saluted the 3rd anniversary dinner of the Cook County Labor League for Political Education.

They included Gov. Adlai Stevenson, Democratic governor elected with LLPE help in 1948; William Erickson, Republican president of the county board; Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, Rep. William L. Dawson and LLPE Director James L. McDevitt.

Master-of-ceremonies was a Republican labor leader, Thomas J. Murray, business representative of the Chicago electricians' union.

"We judge each candidate on his voting record, not on his party label," Mr. McDevitt told the meeting. "So long as a great Senator like your own Paul Douglas and a reactionary like Harry Byrd of Virginia carry the same party label, it is foolish for us to support one party or the other.

He credited the Congress elected in 1948 with an "impressive record."

"It passed a 75-cent minimum wage," he pointed out. "It increased old age pensions, passed for the first time a slum clearance and public housing act, legalized the union shop for railway workers and plugged the last big loophole in anti-trust legislation."

AFL Aids Unionists Fleeing Peron Tortures

Washington.—Argentine Dictator-President Juan D. Peron is torturing officials of the railroad and other unions which have dared to take independent trade union action against his regime.

The November issue of the Inter-American Labor Bulletin, published by the Inter-American Regional Organization of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, carries details.

"Several of the railroad workers have been severely tortured," it said.

The AFL Free Trade Union Committee sent a first donation of funds in response to a plea for financial assistance for the hundreds of arrested trade unionists in Argentina and to relieve privations facing those who in ever increasing numbers are seeking refuge in Uruguay.

The Inter-American Labor Bulletin reports on the tortures:

"The railroad workers strikes were used by the government as an excuse to order the arrest of many political figures who had no direct connection with the labor movement. These included Juan Antonio Solari, secretary general of the Socialist party and Americo Ghioldi, editor of the Socialist party's weekly newspaper "Nuevas Bases," who have been in hiding since January.

"Workers, including Pedro Pistarini, ex-administrative secretary of the CGT, Bartolo Colebatti, ex-member of the executive committee of La Fraternidad, and Carlos Necochea are reported to have been submitted to electric shock and other tortures to make them confess to having been responsible for the railroad workers walkout.

"They have been transferred from jail to jail in various parts of the country so that it has been exceedingly difficult for their lawyers to get a writ of Habeas Corpus to get them free.

"The first indication that Bartolo Colebatti had been tortured was revealed by members of his family who had received from the jail a bundle of bloodstained clothing.

"The attorney for the defense of Carlos Necochea has publicly stated that his client was repeatedly tortured because he refused to testify against his father, Pablo Necochea, a member of the Railway Workers Union. Relatives of Pistarini have stated in sworn statements that he was tortured 5 separate times with electric needles.

"As witness to the tortures inflicted upon Carlos Necochea, a fellow prisoner, Victor Moresi, volunteered some information to the defense counsel. As a reprisal he too was tortured by the police, according to his relatives.

"As of Oct. 20, 1951 the following labor leaders, members of the COASI —the Argentine affiliate to the ORIT and the ICFTU—were still in jail: Jacinto Oddone, Genio Epifanio, A. Lachi Guerra, Augusto Grano, Angel S. Di Giorgio, Rene Ortuno, Alfredo Leon Ferreira, Haroldo Costa, Osvaldo Martinez, Octavio R. Rooney, Enrique Mirambell, and others.

"Alfredo Fidanza and Candido Gregorio, leaders of the COASI now living in exile in Montevideo, have forwarded to the labor organizations in the United States, Canada, and other countries of the Western Hemisphere, as well as to the ORIT and the ICFTU, an urgent appeal for financial assistance.

TRAINING FOR DEFENSE

Washington.—Nearly one fifth of the 140,000 disabled men and women being prepared for employment by the state-federal program for vocational rehabilitation are being trained to work in occupations listed as critical to the defense effort.

AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
Washington, D. C.
Published Tuesday With Supplement on Friday

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1108, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1913.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

Distributed Free to Bonafide Labor Press

Whole No. 2118 TUESDAY, NOV. 13, 1951 Vol. 41, No. 46

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